

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: PQ DROPS WORD SEPARATISM IN FAVOR OF WORD INDEPENDENCE

1. PREMIER RENE LEVESQUE TOLD THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY YESTERDAY THAT THE WORDS OPEN QUOTES SEPARATISM CLOSE QUOTES AND OPEN QUOTES SEPARATION CLOSE QUOTES HAVE BEEN PERMANENTLY DROPPED FROM HIS GOVERNMENT'S VOCABULARY. HE SAID THESE BANNED WORDS IMPLY A BREAKING AWAY - A NEGATIVE ACT - WHILE THE GOVERNMENT PREFERS INDEPENDENCE TO BE A POSITIVE STEP FOR QUEBECERS. HENCE, THE PQ WILL REFER ONLY TO QUEBEC OPEN QUOTES INDEPENDENCE CLOSE QUOTES OR OPEN QUOTES SOVEREIGNTY CLOSE QUOTES WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE PARTY'S ULTIMATE POLITICAL OBJECTIVE FOR THE PROVINCE.

2. LEVESQUE SAID THE BANNED WORDS HAD BEEN MISCONSTRUED IN SCARE STATEMENTS EMANATING FROM GROUPS OPPOSED TO QUEBEC INDEPENDENCE, NOTABLY THE PROVINCIAL LIBERALS. HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY OPPOSITION LEADER GERARD LEVESQUE WHO ASKED THE PREMIER TO SPECIFY THE PQ'S PREFERRED POLITICAL OPTION. GERARD LEVESQUE'S QUESTION FOLLOWED A RECENT TELEVISION INTERVIEW IN WHICH CAMILLE LAURIN, MINISTER OF STATE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, SAID PQ WAS NOT PROPOSING SEPARATISM BUT MERELY A NEW CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT WITH
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ENGLISH CANADA. LAURIN ALSO SAID THAT HE PREFERRED OPEN QUOTES SOVEREIGNTY CLOSE QUOTES OR OPEN QUOTES INDEPENDENCE CLOSE QUOTES TO OPEN QUOTES SEPARATISM CLOSE QUOTES.

3. COMMENT: THE PARTI QUEBECOIS HAS FOUGHT HARD AGAINST THE USE OF OPEN QUOTES SEPARATISM CLOSE QUOTES BY THE LIBERALS

SINCE THE MIDDLE OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. AT THAT TIME, THEY FEARED A CAMPAIGN BACKLASH (WHICH ONLY DEVELOPED IN WEST MONTREAL) AGAINST THEIR GOOD STANDING IN POLLS. HOW PARTY FEELS OPEN QUOTES SEPARATISM CLOSE QUOTES DOES NOT ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THEIR PROGRAM. SEPARATISM CAN IMPLY A DEFINITIVE BREAK IN BOTH FRENCH AND ENGLISH. HOWEVER, WORDS OPEN QUOTES SOUVERAINETE CLOSE QUOTES AND OPEN QUOTES INDEPENDANCE CLOSE QUOTES ARE QUITE NUANCED IN FRENCH AS THEY CAN IMPLY DEGREES OF AUTODETERMINATION WHICH ARE MUCH LESS DEFINITIVE THAN THE WORDS SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE USUALLY IMPLY IN ENGLISH. IN FACT, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES HAD A GOOD TIME DURING THE DEBATE PLAYING WITH THE POSSIBLE MEANINGS OF SOUVERAINETE AND INDEPENDANCE. RENE LEVESQUE SAID THAT QUEBEC COULD HAVE A SOVEREIGN QUEBEC, POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT, SEPARATED (SIC) FROM CANADA FROM POINT OF VIEW OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, BUT IN AN ASSOCIATION WITH CANADA CONCLUDED EITHER BETWEEN THE TWO FOUNDING PEOPLES OR BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH THEY WILL EVENTUALLY FORM. WITHOUT GETTING FURTHER INTO SEMANTICS, SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE PQ HAS OFFICIALLY RID ITSELF (IN ITS OWN USAGE ANYWAY) OF AN ODIIOUS TERM AND LEFT ITSELF WITH TWO KEY WORDS WHICH -IN FRENCH - CONTAIN ENOUGH FLEXABILITY TO PERMIT - IF CONDITIONS DICTATE - ACCEPTANCE OF COMPLETE SELF-DETERMINATION IN SOME AREAS (BUT NOT ALL) OR TO DEVELOP SOME SORT OF CONTRACTIVE ASSOCIATION (ECONOMIC?, NEW CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT?) WITH CANADA EVEN WHILE CALLING IT SOVEREIGNTY OR INDEPENDENCE. GARLAND

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